

VISITATION OF ELKS.

LODGE NO. 237 OF THE ORDER INSTITUTED IN PETERSBURG.

A Gala Day in the Cockade City--Dr. W. E. Evans's Resignation a Genuine Surprise--No Third Party.

(Correspondence of the Richmond Dispatch.)

PETERSBURG, VA., May 4.—Petersburg Lodge, No. 237, of the Order of Elks, was instituted in the Masonic Temple to-day, without imposing ceremonies, conducted by Judge C. W. Murdoch, of Petersburg, the district deputy grand ruler of the State. Strong delegations from Richmond, Norfolk, and Portsmouth were present, and representatives of the lodges in Bristol, Roanoke, and Baltimore were also in attendance.

AN EGRESS TO THE VISTORS.

The visiting delegations were met at the depot by Petersburg Lodge and escorted to the Masonic Temple. The march was through several of the principal streets, the grand officers bidding a hearty farewell to Dr. R. A. H. Land, a large platoon of police, the visiting lodges, and the local lodge. Arriving at the hall, the visitors were cordially welcomed to Petersburg by Mr. C. T. Willis, and a happy reception was given by the members of Standard Lodge. The company then partook of a generous lunch with refreshments. A grand lodge was then organized for the institution of Petersburg Lodge, and several hours were spent in this work.

VISITING DELEGATES.

The following are the names of the representatives from Richmond, Norfolk, and Baltimore:

Richmond, No. 45—R. A. Burke, eminent ruler; C. M. Angle, past eminent ruler; T. G. Leah, treasurer; J. H. Chapman, George L. Evans, Samuel M. Grimes, John J. Hall, B. M. Angle, C. H. Haas, J. Brannan, J. W. Laube, J. A. Pizzini, Sol. Weil, and D. H. Brimmer.

Norfolk, No. 38—T. L. Reid, eminent ruler; J. T. Battley, esquire; H. E. Chavis, trustee; Frank C. Clegg, Dr. O. Lovett, L. D. Drummond, Samuel Morrow, Blackford Gwaltney, Bernard McNally, T. O. Wise, F. L. Slane, and George A. Lyon.

Portsmouth, No. 82—W. W. Murdoch, T. C. Chapman, T. E. Hart, chairman, C. B. Lang, esquire; H. C. Tabb, secretary; G. A. Tabb, treasurer; W. T. Boole, G. J. Scott, W. McNamee, W. T. Dolan, C. D. Drew, J. T. Brady, J. F. Dylan, and M. Clegg.

Baltimore, No. 5—C. Claude Meyers.

Petersburg Lodge starts with over forty members, who gave the visitors a most cordial welcome and practically extended to them the freedom of the city. Each member was initiated separately.

CLOSED WITH A BANQUET.

To-night a grand banquet will be served in the Masonic Temple, all the members of the visiting Elks and the evening passed delightfully in social intercourse. All the delicacies of the season were served, and delicious toasts were given, and happily responded to, and some excellent speeches were made. The occasion, altogether, was a memorable one in the history of the order in this State.

A GENUINE SURPRISE.

The resignation of Rev. William E. Evans, D. D., of his membership of the Virginia Conference, with the number of his clerical interests, joined his professional ministry, was a genuine surprise to the Methodist denomination in this city, where he is held in such high esteem and is so widely known. He was for several years the pastor of West End Church, and during the past year, the present pastor, Rev. Dr. A. C. Bleed, was, and regarded as one of the ablest and most eloquent ministers in the Virginia Conference. His preaching always drew crowded congregations, and his sermons were highly popular throughout the state.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY, consisting of Messrs. Gilliam of Petersburg, Stranach of Richmond, and Cooke of Norfolk, met to-day and disposed of such business as came before them, which was mainly of a routine character. Work has been commenced on the new addition to the asylum.

NOT DEMOCRATS.

One of the most prominent Alliance-men in Prince George county was asked by your correspondent to-day as to the feeling in the county about a Third party. His reply was: "There is very little talk about the Third party. The State legislature, the State railroads, and legislation they are dissatisfied with the failure of both of the national parties to give us the free coinage of silver; they are in favor of tariff reform, they are in favor of protection with us, but the people of the South are Democrats—they have everything at stake in the success of the Democratic party, and they will vote for the Democratic nominee for President. As between Republicans and Democrats, they are for the latter always; between Hill and Cleveland, they are almost unanimous for Hill."

THE LEXINGTON PRESBYTERY.

Second Day's Proceedings—The Reports Generally Favorable—No Meeting.

(Special telegram to the Dispatch.)

STAUNTON, VA., May 4.—The devotional exercises of the Lexington Presbytery to-day were conducted by the Rev. A. S. Hamilton. There were present twenty-eight ministers and twenty-one elders. Rev. C. W. Finch, D. D., of the First Presbyterian Church, and Dr. J. S. Gardner, presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church, were invited to sit on the platform. The Rev. Dr. A. Synodicker, of the China mission, a member of Greenbrier Presbytery, as a corresponding member.

Rev. G. A. Wilson will be installed as pastor of New Providence church the 14th of this month by the Rev. F. B. Brooks, Jr., D. D., Dr. J. A. White, Dr. Finch was placed on the committee to examine applicants for membership in the presbytery on theology.

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